

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NATO COURSES

REF: (A) STATE 039513; (B) MADRID 1158; (C) USNATO 1216;

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BEGIN SUMMARY: IN CONNECTION WITH OUR INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBLE SPANISH ATTENDANCE AT NATO- SPONSORED EW COURSES, AND IN KEEPING WITH SUGGESTION REF (B), WE HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING WHETHER OTHER NATO- CONNECTED COURSES MIGHT EXIST WHICH WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR ATTENDANCE BY SPANISH MILITARY PERSONNEL. TWO UNCLASSIFIED SHAPE PUBLICATIONS, BOTH OF WHICH HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO SECDEF, DESCRIBE BRIEFLY (A) CERTAIN COURSES GIVEN BY THE NATO WEAPON SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT (SHAPE) AND OTHERS GIVEN AT NATIONAL SCHOOLS EITHER WHOLLY OR PARTLY FOR NATO OFFICERS, AND (B) CERTAIN NATIONAL SCHOOL COURSES CONDUCTED BY NATO NATIONS, PRIMARILY FOR THEIR OWN PERSONNEL, BUT AT WHICH THEY ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT QUALIFIED STUDENTS FROM OTHER NATO MEMBER NATIONS. THIS MESSAGE SUGGESTS A FEW COURSES FOR CONSIDERATION BY WASHINGTON AS POSSIBLY SUITABLE FOR ATTENDANCE BY SPANISH PERSONNEL. END SUMMARY.

1. FIRST PUBLICATION (SHAPE 1880.26/14-7, DATED 15 APRIL

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1970) LISTS AND BRIEFLY DESCRIBES 25 NATO AND NATIONAL COURSES, WHICH RANGE FROM SUCH SUBJECTS AS NUCLEAR WEAPONS

EMPLOYMENT AND ORIENTATION COURSES AT US ARMY SCHOOL AT OBERAMMERGAU, GERMANY, TO TRAINING IN EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL AT FACILITIES IN THE UK. SECOND PUBLICATION (SHAPE 1880.27/14-7, DATED 15 FEB 1971) COVERS A TOTAL OF 60 NATIONAL COURSES, OFFERED BY BELGIUM, CANADA, ITALY, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, UK, AND US. SUBJECT MATTER OF THESE COURSES IS EXTREMELY DIVERSE, RANGING FROM CANADIAN DENTAL OFFICERS CLINICAL COURSE TO ITALIAN INTER-SERVICE GENERAL STAFF COURSE. (WE NOTE, INCIDENTALLY, THAT PRE-REQUISITE FOR MANY COURSES LISTED IN BOTH PUBLICATIONS IS A "NATO SECRET" OR "NATO CONFIDENTIAL" SECURITY CLEARANCE.) SOLE COURSE LISTED IN SECOND PUBLICATION AS BEING OFFERED BY US IS DEFENSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS COURSE CONDUCTED BY US NAVAL AND POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL, MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA; NOTATION IS ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT INFORMATION ABOUT COURSES AT OTHER US SCHOOLS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM US MAAGS, MISSIONS AND ATTACHES.

2. IT APPEARS THAT OUR WISH TO FOSTER CLOSER NATO- SPANISH MILITARY COOPERATION WOULD BE BEST SERVED BY SPANISH ATTENDANCE AT ONE OR MORE COURSES LISTED IN FIRST PUBLICATION RATHER THAN IN SECOND, SINCE NATO NEXUS IS CLEARER IN CASE OF FORMER. WE FURTHER BELIEVE THAT THIS MIGHT MOST EASILY BE ACCOMPLISHED IN FIRST INSTANCE BY ARRANGING FOR SPANISH ATTENDANCE AT A NATO COURSE RUN BY U. S. WE SUGGEST RULING OUT NUCLEAR OR CHEMICAL WARFARE COURSES AS TOO SENSITIVE. IT SEEMS TO US THAT ONE LISTED COURSE WHICH MIGHT SERVE AS A STARTING POINT IS THE "COMBAT OPERATIONS SPECIALIST COURSE - OFFICERS CLASSES," CONDUCTED BY USAF AT RAMSTEIN, GERMANY, FOR PERIODS OF FOUR DAYS. PURPOSES OF COURSE ARE LISTED AS:

"A. TO ACQUAINT SELECTED NATO OFFICERS WITH THE ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE IN EUROPE - SEVENTH ARMY AIR/ GROUND OPERATIONS SYSTEM.

B. TO PROVIDE AN INFORMAL MEETING GROUND FOR AIR/ GROUND TEAM MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER NATO COUNTRIES FOR THE PURPOSES OF EXCHANGING IDEAS AND VIEWS." EXCEPTIONS TO "PREREQUISITES FOR ATTENDANCE," WHICH INCLUDE ASSIGNMENT TO NATO HEADQUARTERS, EARMARKED FORCES, OR CONFIDENTIAL

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MILITARY STAFFS OF NATO NATIONS, AS WELL AS NATO SECRET CLEARANCE, WOULD OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO BE MADE FOR SPANISH OFFICERS. INSTRUCTION IN ENGLISH WOULD POSE PROBLEM FOR SOME SPANISH OFFICERS.

3. IF WE WERE ABLE TO POINT TO SPANISH ATTENDANCE AT US- CONDUCTED COURSE SUCH AS ONE DESCRIBED ABOVE, WE MIGHT LATER BE IN BETTER POSITION TO SUGGEST TO UK, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT OVERALL INTERESTS OF ALLIANCE WOULD BE SERVED BY

THEIR INVITING SPANISH OFFICERS TO ATTEND 13 WEEK NATO ASW COURSE CONDUCTED EVERY TWO YEARS AT PORTSMOUTH, ENGLAND. OTHER POSSIBILITIES AMONG COURSES LISTED IN FIRST PUBLICATION WOULD BE NATO OFFICERS ELECTRONIC WARFARE COURSES OFFERED BY UK AT HMS MERCURY, PETERSFIELD, ENGLAND.

4. IN EVENT WASHINGTON FAVORS MORE CONSERVATIVE INITIAL APPROACH TO THIS MATTER, SPANISH ATTENDANCE AT NATIONAL COURSES LISTED IN SECOND DSHAPE PUBLICATION COULD BE PURSUED. FOR EXAMPLE, IF WE HAVE NOT DONE SO IN THE PAST, U. S. COULD INVITE SPANISH OFFICERS TO ATTEND DEFENSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS COURSE AT MONTEREY.

5. MAJORITY OF COURSES LISTED IN SECOND SHAPE PUBLICATION ARE OFFERED BY UK. SOME SUCH COURSES ARE HIGHLY TECHNICAL (E. G., ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS OFFICERS FOOD TECHNOLOGY COURSE); POSSIBILITIES AMONG UK COURSES MIGHT INCLUDE ELECTRONIC WARFARE COURSE FOR SENIOR AIR FORCE OFFICERS AND JOINT MARITIME COURSE (WHICH INCLUDES ACTUAL OPERATIONAL EXERCISES). CONSIDERATION MIGHT ALSO BE GIVEN TO BELGIAN MINESWEEPING COURSES GIVEN AT OSTENDE AND ITALIAN ELECTRONIC WARFARE COURSE FOR LAND FORCES NATO OFFICERS.

6. ANOTHER POSSIBLE APPROACH WOULD BE TO HAVE US DELEGATION TO SEMI-ANNUAL NATO TRAINING CONFERENCE, SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN LONDON IN JUNE, RAISE SUBJECT OF SPANISH ATTENDANCE AT NATO TRAINING COURSES. DIFFICULTY WITH THIS APPROACH WOULD BE THAT SUCH A SUGGESTION WOULD RUN STRONG RISK OF OBJECTION BY SOME DELEGATES, WITH RESULT THAT IT WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT TO PURSUE GRADUAL PROGRAM SUGGESTED ABOVE.

7. WE WILL AWAIT WASHINGTON REACTION BEFORE MAKING ANY
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APPROACHES HERE AIMED AT SOLICITING INVITATION TO SPANISH. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE USEUCOM COMMENTS CONCERNING OUR SUGGESTION THAT SPANISH ATTENDANCE AT RAMSTEIN COMBAT OPERATIONS SPECIALIST COURSE BE PURSUED.
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